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TAGS: PREL XF CA
SUBJECT: CANADIAN FOREIGN MINISTER LAUDS ANNAPOLIS CONFERENCE

¶1. (U) Foreign Minister Maxime Bernier, in a November 27
statement, praised the "historic" undertakings of the Annapolis
Conference and offered Canada's continued support as the parties
move forward toward the goal of two states living in peace and
security. Full text in para 2.   Bernier led the Canadian
delegation to the conference.

¶2. (U) Begin text
"Today in Annapolis, the Israelis and Palestinians agreed in a joint
understanding to work toward a peace agreement by the end of 2008.
This historic development came about through the determination,
vision and efforts of Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and
Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, and under the firm
leadership of the United States.
"The progress achieved during this conference brings renewed hope.
We were especially encouraged by the robust presence and support of
the international community, notably those from the Arab world,
whose renewed commitment is vital for a comprehensive peace
agreement. We also welcomed the international community's commitment
to helping the Palestinians improve security, build modern
governance institutions, develop their economy and create
prosperity.
"The dual pillars of Canada's principled policy on the Middle East
are our long-standing support for the security and well-being of
Israel and its legitimate place within the Middle East and the
international community, and our support for the establishment of a
democratic, peaceful Palestinian state.
"Canada will continue to support the parties and U.S. leadership as
negotiations move forward toward everyone's goal: two states living
in peace and security."
End text
WILKINS